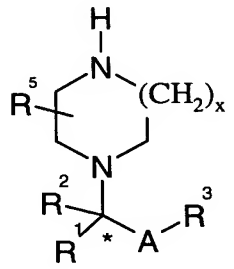
Amendment to the Claims

Claims:

1. (Currently amended). A compound according to Formula I:



I

and pharmaceutically and/or veterinarily acceptable derivatives thereof, wherein:

R^1 is H;

R^2 is aryl, het, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, $(CH_2)_z$aryl or R^4, wherein each of the cycloalkyl, aryl, het and R^4 groups is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$, C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyl-S-, $C_{1-4}alkylNR^{10}R^{11}$ and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

or R^1 and R^2, together with the carbon atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring or a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing at least one N, O or S heteroatom;

where R^1 and R^2 are different, * represents a chiral centre;

R^3 is aryl, het or R^4, each substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, het, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$, C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyl-S-, $C_{1-4}alkylNR^{10}R^{11}$ and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^4 is a phenyl group fused to a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic group, or a phenyl group fused to a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing at least one N, O or S heteroatom;

R^5 is H or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{10} and R^{11} are the same or different and are independently H or C_{1-4}alkyl;

A is an unsubstituted methylene group;

x is an integer from 1 to 3;

y is 1 or 2;

z is an integer from 1 to 3;

aryl is phenyl, naphthyl, anthracyl or phenanthryl; and

het is an aromatic or non-aromatic 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which contains at least one N, O or S heteroatom, optionally fused to a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic group or a second 4-, 5- or 6-membered heterocycle which contains at least one N, O or S heteroatom,

provided that when R^1 is H, R^2 is phenyl, A is CH_2 and x is 1, R^3 is not 3-hydroxyphenyl or 3-(C_{1-4}alkoxy)phenyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein R^2 is aryl, het or C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl.

4. (Original). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 3, wherein R^2 is aryl optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl.

5. (Original). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 4, wherein R^2 is phenyl optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl.

6. (Currently amended). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein R^3 is aryl or R^4, each substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl.

7. (Original). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 6, wherein R^3 is phenyl substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, OH, halo, CF_3, OCF_3, $OCHF_2$, $O(CH_2)_yCF_3$, CN, $CONH_2$, $CON(H)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $CON(C_{1-6}alkyl)_2$, hydroxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkoxy, SCF_3, $C_{1-6}alkylSO_2$ and C_{1-4}alkyl-S-C_{1-4}alkyl.

8. (Currently amended). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein R^5 is H or C_{1-6}alkyl.

9. (Currently amended). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein x is 1.

10. (Original). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 1 which is (+) or (-)-1-[2-(2-Ethoxyphenyl)-1-phenylethyl]piperazine.

11. (Original). A compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of:

1-{1-Phenyl-2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl}piperazine;

1-{1-Phenyl-2-[2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl]ethyl}piperazine;

1-{1-Phenyl-2-[2-chlorophenyl]ethyl}piperazine;

1-{1-(3-Fluorophenyl)-2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl}piperazine;

1-{2-[2-(Difluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1-phenylethyl}piperazine;

1-{1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl}piperazine;

1-{1-(2-Fluorophenyl)-2-[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]ethyl}piperazine; and

1-[2-(2-Methoxyphenyl)-1-phenylethyl]piperazine.

12. (Currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in ~~any one of~~ Claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 11~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended). A method of treatment of a disorder in which the regulation of serotonin or noradrenaline is implicated which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of~~ Claim~~s~~ 1~~-11~~ to a patient in need of such treatment.

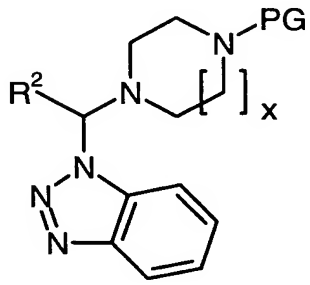
19. (Original). A method according to Claim 18, wherein the regulation of serotonin and noradrenaline is implicated.

20. (Currently amended). A method of treatment of urinary disorders, depression, pain, premature ejaculation, ADHD or fibromyalgia, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of~~ Claim~~s~~ 1~~-11~~ to a patient in need of such treatment.

21. (Currently amended). A method according to Claim 20, wherein the urinary disorder is urinary incontinence~~, such as GSI or USI~~.

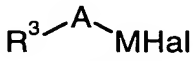
22. (New). A method according to Claim 21, wherein the urinary disorder is genuine stress incontinence or stress urinary incontinence.

23. (Currently amended). A process for preparing a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of~~ Claims ~~1-11~~ comprising reacting a compound of Formula III



(III)

wherein R2 and x are as defined in ~~any of~~ Claims ~~1 to 11~~ and PG is a protecting group;
with a compound of Formula IV



(IV)

wherein R3 and A are as defined in ~~any of~~ Claims ~~1 to 11~~, M is a metal selected from Zn and Mg and Hal is a halogen atom selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine;
and deprotecting the resultant compound.